

4th September

Changing schools is such a scary thing. I'm so nervous. I wish I didn't have to leave my old school but we didn't have a choice. It was closing, so everyone had to find somewhere else. Luckily there was one quite close by, which means I can still go on my bike.

When I went to visit the school before the summer holidays, everyone seemed friendly. The children were chatty and seemed happy. I got talking to some of them who were telling me about a great trip they do in year 6. It's a residential to the Lake District at the end of the SATs. Someone said they do all sorts of adventurous outdoor activities there, like climbing, abseiling, kayaking and hiking. That'll be something to look forward to.

Some children from my new class showed me around – it's a huge school! The layout is like a maze and probably twice the size of my old school. They have a brilliant computer suite with some state-of-the-art equipment. The playground is large but the field is immense; it's big enough for two football pitches, a forest section and a running track, and it's all edged with mature conifers which provide shade. I hope I find the way to the toilet!

So, I've laid out my clothes ready for tomorrow and my bag is packed. I've got a new pencil case and Mum has made me some lunch. My alarm is set for quarter to seven so I should have plenty of time.

My stomach is churning as I sit here writing this. There's so much to look forward to, yet I just can't stop feeling apprehensive. I just need to go in tomorrow, be brave and get the first day over with.

5th September

What a busy day! I didn't want to get out of bed this morning but my cat kept nudging me to get up. I had a shower, got dressed and went down for some breakfast. Mum gave me a good luck card and said she'd make my favourite tea – lasagne.

I ate some cereal but I couldn't finish it. My appetite always suffers when I'm anxious. I finished getting ready, put my lunch into my backpack and said goodbye to Mum. Then, I rode my bike to school.

The ride was lovely actually. The birds chatted to me all along the route; it was as if they knew they had to keep my mind away from my uneasy thoughts. They did a good job and I arrived at school really quite positive about the day ahead.

The rest of the day went by in a flash! My classroom is a hive of activity and there are 28 children in my class. They all seem to be kind and friendly. Assembly was fun! The headteacher made everyone stand up and go to the front. My knees were wobbling but it was okay. There were a few of us, so at least I wasn't alone.

During English, everyone worked quietly and it was a really relaxed but productive atmosphere. Some children read their paragraphs out at the end and we all clapped.

During break time I saw that there was a good selection of equipment to use – balls, skipping ropes, hoops and cones. I made a course with some children from my class to dribble a ball through.

The rest of the day went smoothly and I feel really positive about going in tomorrow. I won't have those first-day nerves anymore. Everyone made me feel welcome and it was so lovely when, at the end of the day, the parents of some of the children came over in the playground and introduced themselves to me.

I'm going to really enjoy teaching my new class.

Find one simile and one metaphor in the text.

Thing being described	Simile used

Thing being described	Metaphor used

How does the author manipulate the reader into thinking that the diary writer is a child?

What things does the writer do the day before starting at the school to get ready?

What does the reader realise at the end of the text?

Find two words from the text that have a similar meaning to the word **worried**.

Find an example of personification in the text.

Find one simile and one metaphor in the text.

Thing being described	Simile used
the layout of the school	like a maze

Thing being described	Metaphor used
the classroom	a hive of activity

How does the author manipulate the reader into thinking that the diary writer is a child?

We are never told that the writer is a teacher. There is no reference to the age of the writer. The writer talks about things that a child might write about, such as getting a new pencil case and packing their bag. The writer's mum makes their lunch and says they will make a favourite meal, which is something that we might associate with a child. We don't really associate being nervous to start a new school with a teacher.

What things does the writer do the day before starting at the school to get ready?

**laid out their clothes
packed their bag
set their alarm**

What does the reader realise at the end of the text?

The writer of the diary is a teacher, not a child.

Find two words from the text that have a similar meaning to the word **worried**.

Any two from:

- **nervous**
- **apprehensive**
- **anxious**
- **uneasy**

Find an example of personification in the text.

the birds chatted to me all along the route

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